

SPARC BC

Poverty Reduction BC

Date April 26/2018

Number of Participants 25

Organization

Lower Kootenay Band

About the participants

- Youth 15-20
- Adults 20-50
- Elders 50-65

Issues:

- Lack of proper nutrition.
- After paying for rent, heat and electricity, people with low income have little money left (typically for an Income assistance recipient \$249.00) for food and they are less likely to eat fruit, vegetables, milk products, and other food that provide the nutrients they need for good health.

Possible Solutions:

- Increase social assistance support
- Instead of deducting earnings from social assistance have government match the earnings for 6-12 months as an incentive and support for individuals to get back on their feet.
- Reduce waiting periods for Social Assistance
- Abolish SA and move towards a guaranteed income system across the board.
- Increase the living wage

Issues

- Lack of Transportation/public and private.
- It is a vicious cycle because you can't get employment in town because you don't have transportation. And you can't get transportation because you don't have a job.
- Although the lower Kootenay Band is only 6km from the town of Creston the community has no access to public transportation. We began working with the

